



Health Issues in Haiti

- Haiti's health indicators are the worst in the Western Hemisphere and comparable to many countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Life expectancy stands at approximately 49 years. Approximately 40% of the population do not have access to basic health services.
- Every year, more than 20,000 children under the age of five years die as a result of easily treatable diseases, such as diarrhea or pneumonia, or vaccine preventable diseases. Only 40% of the children in Haiti are fully immunized. Diarrhea is the major cause of child illness in Haiti, followed by acute respiratory infection.
- Approximately 10% of children under the age of five years are considered severely malnourished, which further complicates child health issues.
- 25% of pregnant women give birth in a health care facility assisted by a trained health care provider; the rest deliver at home. Approximately 2,000 women die each year while giving birth due to difficulties accessing appropriate health care for delivery or immediately following delivery.
- Haiti has the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the region (currently estimated at 3.8 per cent of the adult population, UNAIDS). 190,000 Haitian adults aged 15 and older and 17,000 Haitian children aged 0 to 14 are living with HIV/AIDS. 16,000 individuals have died from AIDS to date, leaving behind an estimated 200,000 orphans.
- Haiti has by far the highest incidence of tuberculosis in Latin America and the Caribbean region at 306 cases per 100,000. An estimated 14% of these TB patients are infected with HIV.